

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds, which comprises: a foodstuff with a) more than 5% by weight of water-soluble indigestible polysaccharides relative to a total amount of dried foodstuff, said indigestible polysaccharides capable of being decomposed by intestinal bacteria, and b) *Bacillus coagulans*, said foodstuff having metal-containing yeast of 0.01% to 5.0% by weight and protein component of 50% 8% or less by weight.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to claim 1 or ~~claim 2~~, wherein said indigestible polysaccharides are selected from pectin, polydextrose, alginic acid, fucoidan, chitin, chitosan, testa-derived hemicellulose, acacia gum, arum root-derived mannan, agar, and sugar alcohol and polymers of sugar alcohol.

4. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said indigestible polysaccharides contains at least polydextrose and pectin with a ratio of 0.05 to 100 parts by weight of pectin to 100 parts of polydextrose.

5. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 and 4~~ claim 1 or 4, further containing at least one of trace metal, vitamin and fat.

6. (Previously Presented) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to claim 3, further containing at least one of trace metal, vitamin and fat.

7. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to ~~any of claims 1, 2 and 4~~ claim 1 or 4, which food is formed in beverage, biscuit, cookie, cake, ice cream, sherbet, bread, noodle or jelly.

8. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to claim 3, which food is ~~formed in~~ in the form of a beverage, biscuit, cookie, cake, ice cream, sherbet, bread, noodle or jelly.

9. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to claim 5, which food is ~~formed in~~ in the form of a beverage, biscuit, cookie, cake, ice cream, sherbet, bread, noodle or jelly.

10. (Currently Amended) Food composition for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds according to claim 6, which food is ~~formed in~~ in the form of a beverage, biscuit, cookie, cake, ice cream, sherbet, bread, noodle or jelly.